

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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LIMDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, SREF, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION-LENGRAD SITREP

REFS: A) MOSCOW 0604 B) LENINGRAD 0056

SUMMARY- POPULATION OF LENINGRAD JEWISH "REFUSENIKS" REMAINS ABOUT THE

SAME. INTEREST IN "TRADE BILL/EMIGRATION COMPROMISE" APPEARS A BIT
HIGHER THAN REPORTED PARA 7 REF A. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT COVERSATION WITH CONSOFF, LENINGRAD JEWISH "REFUSENIK"
SAID LOCAL POPULATION OF THOSE REFUSED EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL
REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST REPORT: APPROXIMATELY 50 FAMILY GROUPS,

TOTALLING 150 PERSONS. FIVE FAMILIES RECENTLY RE-REFUSED. SOURCE STATED

THAT MAJOR COMPLAINT OF LOCAL REFUSENIKS IS OBVIOUS CAPRICE SHOWN BY
OVIR IN CONSIDERATION OF CASES. HE CITED AS MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE A
WOMAN WHOSE SON APPLIED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. HE WAS REFUSED AT FIRST

ON GROUNDS MOTHER HAD HAD ACCESS TO "SECRET" DATA, BUT LATER GIVEN
PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE HAD TOLD MOTHER'S WORK HAD NOT INVOLVED ANY-
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THING SENSITIVE. MOTHER APPLIED TO JOIN SON ABROAD, ONLY TO BE TOLD

THAT NOT ONLY HAD HER WORK EXPOSED HER TO "SECRETS", BUT ALSO THAT THE NATURE OF HER SUPPOSED KNOWLEDGE IS SUCH THAT SHE MAY NOT LEAVE FOR ELEVEN RPT ELEVEN YEARS.

2. SOURCE DETAILED HIS OWN UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND ASKED CONSOFF TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT, VP, AND SECSTATE THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SOVIET LEADERS, THERE IS ZERO PROGRESS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL SO FAR AS THEIR GROUP IS CONCERNED.

3. COMMENT: BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT LOCAL INTEREST IN "EMIGRATION/TRADE BILL COMPROMISE" REMAINS HIGH. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT "REFUSENIKS", AT LEAST, HAVE ANY GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT EMIGRATION WILL BECOME FREER. OUR CONTACTS HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED AND, NO MATTER WHAT USG MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD RE EMIGRATION, SOVIETS WILL ALWAYS FIND LOOPHOLES OR SIMPLY NOT HONOR AN AGREEMENT. THEIR INTEREST, MOST FORCEFULLY EXPRESSED AS REQUESTS THAT POST SOMEHOW "ENFORCE" OR "INSIST THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ADHERE TO" WHAT THEY CONTINUE TO REFER TO AS "THE AGREEMENT (DOGOVOR)," IS AKIN TO THAT OF A DROWNING MAN IN A LIFE PRESERVER GLIMPSED FOR A MOMENT ON THE HORIZON: IT MAY BE AN ILLUSION, BUT IT'S ALL THERE IS TO HOPE FOR.
NEUBERT

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